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Saint Luke's Foundation Honored with Free Clinic Partnership Award by O AFC

COLUMBUS, Ohio---The Ohio Association of Free Clinics (O AFC) presented the Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland with its 2009 Free Clinic Partnership Award in support of its partnership with The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland and North Coast Health Ministry, which serve the uninsured in Cleveland.

Saint Luke's Foundation has been a stalwart supporter of free clinics throughout Ohio, both through financial support and community leadership in advancing health programming in the Northeast Ohio region.

Since 1999, the Foundation has awarded \$900,000 in direct support to The Free Clinic of Greater Cleveland to provide adult medical services to approximately 3,500 patients and capacity expansion initiatives that broadened clinic hours for increased community access. Saint Luke's Foundation has also supported the work of North Coast Health Ministry with operating support grants since 2003, totaling \$235,000.

The Foundation provides not only monetary support, but valuable in-kind contributions for area clinics. They have given staff leadership, training opportunities, and even convene several community health advocacy groups. The Foundation has been instrumental leaders in the community for many years and advocate for improved health care access for the uninsured community in all they do and support.

Saint Luke's Foundation has generously awarded more than \$21 million in support of direct care and access initiatives in Northeast Ohio and has been awarded the 2009 Free Clinic Partnership Award.

The O AFC Partnership Award was created to honor corporations and organizations whose direct financial assistance and encouragement of volunteerism significantly impacts service to the healthcare needs of the working poor and uninsured.

The award was presented at the O AFC annual awards luncheon on October 13, 2009 the Tenth Annual Ohio Free Clinics Conference at the DoubleTree Columbus/Worthington in Columbus, Ohio.

The mission of the Ohio Association of Free Clinics is to advocate for high quality health services for the underserved. The Association mobilizes resources, strengthens member clinics and is a powerful voice for all Ohioans who are underserved. Forty (40) free clinics belong to the Association. More information about O AFC can be found at www.ohiofreeclinics.org.